

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJECT: REPORTING CABLE ON ACTN MEETING JUNE 26-27

1. SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS HAD AN EXCELLENT TWO-DAY MEETING MAKING A STRONG INPUT INTO THE INFORMATION RESOURCES OF U.S. NEGOTIATORS. ACTN MEMBERS ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH NEGOTIATORS OF OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS. THEY WERE FULLY BRIEFED ON THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY AMBASSADORS STRAUSS, MCDONALD AND WOLFF AND STAFF MEMBERS. OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY ACTN MEMBERS REFLECTED FEELING THAT BRIEFINGS HAD BEEN FRANK AND FORTHRIGHT AND THAT MEMBERS HAD GAINED GREATLY IN THEIR APPRECIATION OF U.S. POSITION.

2. BRIEFINGS WERE BY FUNCTIONAL SUBDIVISION, PLUS BRIEF-
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INGS ON COUNTRY AND REGIONAL BASES FOLLOWED BY SESSIONS WITH NEGOTIATORS FOR THE EC, CANADA, JAPAN AND BRAZIL, AND A BRIEFING BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT.

3. DISCUSSION ON AGRICULTURE WAS EXTENSIVE AND INCLUDED IMMEDIATE REPORT BY AMBASSADOR STRAUSS ON A MEETING WITH EC'S GUNDELACH. CHIEF CONCERNS ON AGRICULTURE FROM COMMIT-

TEE MEMBERS WERE SUBSIDIES AFFECTING THIRD COUNTRY MARKETS, ESPECIALLY NEWLY OPENING MARKETS; FEAR THAT A COARSE GRAINS AGREEMENT MIGHT LEAD TO A RIGID PRICE SYSTEM; A FEELING THAT COUNTRIES IN AGRICULTURAL SURPLUS SHOULD GO TO DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS RATHER THAN SUBSIDIES; FAILURE OF EC TO CREDIT U.S. FOR CONCESSIONS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE NOT NEGOTIATED AS AGRICULTURE. EXPRESSED CONCERNS WERE OFTEN INDIVIDUAL RATHER THAN CONSENSUS.

4. OTHER POINTS OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST INCLUDED THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE AND THE PRESENT DIFFICULTY OF SALES OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND POSSIBLE FURTHER DETERIORATION OF OUR SALES POSITION WITHOUT A CODE; TARIFF DISPARITIES; SUBSIDIES, INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL; RULES OF ORIGIN RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. PRODUCTS; SURPRISE OVER THE VOLUME AND VALUE OF U.S. TRADE WITH LDC'S AND THE CONCEPT OF GRADUATION INCLUDING POSSIBLE INTERMEDIATE LEVELS OF GRADUATION; DIFFICULTIES IN THE JAPANESE TRADING SYSTEM.

5. ACTN MEMBERS ACCEPT REALITY THAT SECTORAL NEGOTIATIONS PER SE WERE NOT PRACTICABLE BUT WERE KEENLY INTERESTED IN STR AND MTN DEL PROGRAMS TO MONITOR CLOSELY RESULTS ATTAINED IN RELATION TO IDENTIFIED PRIORITY U.S. OBJECTIVES IN PARTICULAR SECTORS.

6. FURTHER POINTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS INCLUDED POSSIBLE NEED FOR CONTINUED WORK IN THE FUTURE ON SOME AREAS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATION RATHER THAN AN ABRUPT END IN JULY (OR SUBSEQUENT TERMINAL DATE); NEED FOR STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE GATT SECRETARIAT; PROCESS BY WHICH MTN RESULTS WOULD BE ACCEPTED OR SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE EC; MANNER IN WHICH SECTORS MAY BE ASSESSED FOR TOTAL IMPACT ON MTN RESULTS; AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ACTN, WITH AGREEMENT THAT THE FINAL REPORT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CONGRESS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATIONS, PRESUMABLY IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1979.

7. DRAFTED BY CLEPHAS/BONANNO. MCDONALD

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